

8-23-1845

## Letter from Samuel Park to James B. Finley

Samuel Park

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Pecrant Hill August 23, 1845

Dear Bro. - James B. Finley I shall attempt to address you, though with the trembling hand of affliction, Mrs. Park is but just able to sit up a few minutes at a time, after two weeks in which she was well nigh leaving for the spirit world, but God's mercy is still manifest. I also have been sick for ten days past, part of the time confined to my bed, but I am recovering.

Our last rallying Meeting for this year is now going on at Green's Meeting House. But my afflictions are such that I cannot be there, but I think there will be but little, if any thing done in Money matters. Bro. Gilvutts address at the Quarterly Meeting at Granville wound up the matter for this year in Granville, but perhaps they took but little winding. You are deficient not quite five dollars which I think you will get from Dr. Spencer, and myself, although I have not the money to send you now as I expected having paid out all the money I had on hand just before I was taken sick, and now not able to go out to get it but you may rely on not less than two dollars from me on your return if not before. I have just seen the Doctor and he says his will surely come, but I think you had better not embrace it in your publick report in Conference as your report will be more than a proportion with the preachers of the circuit without it and we have had trouble enough arising

Conference  
1845  
James B. Finley

James B. Finley

Cincinnati  
Ohio



from jealousy already. But there is another subject on which I wish to say something, and I would to God I had strength of body and mind to treat the subject as it merits, (viz.) the Division of the Circuit. I learn that it is proposed to divide this circuit so as to leave nothing but Granville and this (Park) society to be attached to the Eastern part of Lathropstown circuit, which is poor and in debt and full of Seigns. But this is not my greatest objection. Much of the time since I have been acting as Steward on Granville circuit it has been the interest of our dictators the Ministry (judging from their acts) to act in direct opposition to the interests of the Membership, and the officiating of the circuit, in several times dividing the circuit without the knowledge or consent of the circuit, who certainly have some interest in the Matter. I do not claim that we have the right to counteract or to supersede the acts of the Annual Conference, but I do think that there are a few at least, who have lived for years on the circuit and have studied its interests, who know as much about when a circuit should be divided as some of our preachers that have but just passed through its Borders, and might with some propriety be consulted in matters of such vital interest. I gain neither preaching nor people are benefited by the prevailing practice of reducing the labor of the Preachers that it may be performed in one or two days in the week, and the balance of the time spent not in pastoral visits, but in making fashionable visits

and attending parties, in which the spirit of the ministry is lost and the services that are performed become dull and without effect. Perhaps the mind is fully absorbed in some speculation intended to amuse their idle days. But one of the greatest evils is the dividing the officiating. The Board of Stewards is broken up - a new board is to be appointed - all is done in a hurry. Some are appointed that are unfit for the office, - they are to be removed and others appointed in their place. - new associations are formed, they must become acquainted with each other, - confidence must be gained before they can act in concert, - and they must act in concert to act efficiently. All this requires time during which the preachers do not get their pay, the Stewards are held up for public ridicule, charged with being contentious, careless, and heedless as to the wants of the Preachers, become a laughing and byword in the Mouths of other denominations, and the world. As an individual I would suggest that if any alterations are made, that Hebron, Granville and Lathropstown Circuits be thrown together, and two circuits made of the three. if this cannot be done and there must be <sup>division</sup> let us (Park Society) be set off to Hebron circuit. Since writing the above I have received word from Bros Lane and Whitehead that they wish me to <sup>put</sup> their names to my letter, you may count them as decidedly opposed to Bro. Whitcomb's plan of division.

Yours in Christian Bonds Samuel Park  
Rev. J. B. Henley